

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application. For the Examiner's convenience a complete listing of all claims incorporating the amendments made herein is attached as Appendix A.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (Amended): A method for inhibiting the proliferation of mammalian retinal endothelial cells ~~that express an  $A_{2B}$ -adenosine receptor~~ comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an  ~~$A_{2B}$ -adenosine receptor antagonist~~ 3-N-propylxanthine to the mammalian retinal endothelial cells, whereby the proliferation of the mammalian retinal endothelial cells is inhibited.

Claims 2-10 (Canceled)

Claim 11. (Amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the 3-N-propylxanthine ~~$A_{2B}$  adenosine receptor antagonist~~ is administered in an amount ranging from about 1 microgram/kg to about 50 milligrams/kg.

Claim 12. (Amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the 3-N-propylxanthine ~~$A_{2B}$  adenosine receptor antagonist~~ is administered in an amount ranging from about 1 microgram/kg to about 10 milligrams/kg.

Claim 13. (Amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the 3-N-propylxanthine ~~$A_{2B}$  adenosine receptor antagonist~~ is administered by a method selected from the group consisting of orally, nasally, transdermally, by bolus, intravenously, in eye drops, by inhalation, and by using micropumps.

Claim 14. (Amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the 3-N-propylxanthine ~~$A_{2B}$  adenosine receptor antagonist~~ is administered in eye drops.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal is a human.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented): A method for assaying compounds to determine if they are A<sub>2B</sub> adenosine receptor antagonists or A<sub>2B</sub> adenosine receptor agonists comprising the steps of:

- a. preparing a first and second sample of retinal endothelial cells;
- b. adding a compound to be tested to the first sample of retinal endothelial cells and allowing the compound to remain in contact with the first sample of retinal endothelial cells for a defined period of time; and
- c. comparing the number of new cells grown in the first sample with the number of new cells grown in the second sample.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented): An A<sub>2B</sub> adenosine receptor antagonist compound identified by the method of claim 16 wherein the compound caused fewer new cells to grow in the first sample in comparison to the second sample.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented): An A<sub>2B</sub> adenosine receptor agonist compound identified by the method of claim 16 wherein the compound caused more new cells to grow in the first sample in comparison to the second sample.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 16, wherein the retinal endothelial cells are human cells.